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Photograph by U. S. Army Signal Corps

GENERAL PERSHING PAUSES TO CHAT WITH A FRENCH WAR-TIME ADMIRER

A new statue of the World War Commander of the American Armies, at Versailles, was erected by public subscription raised this year in all the towns and villages of France. Facing the Pershing statue across the highway to Paris stands one of Lafayette, a gift of American school children to France early in the century (Bulletin No. 4).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Minorca: Spain's Most English Island Possession

BRITISH and French ships patrolling a Spanish island from possible attack from another Spanish island—this is the international tangle which developed around Minorca. This Mediterranean island, like the whole Balearic group of which it is the second largest, is almost as close to French and Italian territory as to Spanish.

Its location near British trade routes gave it 71 years of history under British rule, which left an English imprint upon the island and its people that is still noticeable to travelers.

Minorca is the easternmost of the Balearics. No one visiting its sister islands, Majorca and Iviza, would doubt the latter's Spanish ownership after an observation of their people or their buildings.

Farragut's Ancestral Home

But Minorca, although ruled by Spain and but 27 miles east of Majorca, differs from its neighbor islands. Except in a few spots, its people and its buildings might be at home in an English village outside of London. Because of early British occupation, Miss Minorca stays at home, while her Spanish sisters work side by side in the fields with their husbands. Instead of the soft oxhide Spanish sandal, the Minorca maid wears shoes. And she tells how Lord Nelson, during the war with France, at the end of the 18th century, came to Mahon, Minorca's capital, seized and lived in a mansion house overlooking Mahon's fine harbor.

The name of Mahon is used daily around the world, in the sauce said to have been named for it—mayonnaise.

In the protected inlets around the island are small fishing villages, whitened by frequent coats of whitewash. Back of these villages, the natives raise enough wheat for home needs. Wine, olive oil, potatoes, hemp, and flax are also produced in moderate quantities; melons, pomegranates, figs, and almonds are abundant. Some cattle, sheep, and goats are reared. If it were not for the scarcity of fuel, the lead, copper, and iron deposits could be profitably worked. Near Mercadal, there are fine marble, limestone, and slate quarries. Incidentally, Mercadal is the ancestral home of Admiral Farragut, of Civil War fame.

Windowless Houses in Interior

In the 18th century the British built a road from Ciudadela, on the northwest coast, to Mahon, on the southeast coast. Travelers enjoy beautiful panoramas where some energetic Minorcan has taken pride in his estate, but unkempt spots are numerous.

Stone monuments, caves, and other historic relics have been discovered, but one has to penetrate deep into the fields and byways to find them.

Ancient, windowless stone structures are found in the interior (illustration, next page). Scientists could, perhaps, trace the origin of these Minorcan antiques to prehistoric times, or to the periods when the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans or Arabs occupied the island.

Expand Minorca four times its natural size, and even then it would not match the area of Rhode Island. Its population could be housed in a small American city. More than half of the Minorcans live in Mahon, the capital, the most English spot on the island.

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Photograph by Herman Bente

MEDITATIVE TEMPO GOVERNS TRAFFIC IN THE CAPITAL OF HAMLET'S COUNTRY

Thoughtful instead of headlong is the roadway pace of Copenhagen, determined by numerous bicycles—which are almost half as numerous as the population. Denmark's capital, the "Merchants' Haven," is the only Danish city with more than 100,000 inhabitants, and it contains about 23 per cent of the entire country's population. Exception to the bicycling tendency of Copenhagen's residents is the King, who rides a horse and rules one of the oldest and most democratic kingdoms in the world (Bulletin No. 5).

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Mystery of Lohon Plant Solved in Remote Area of China

NOT all of the news out of China is war news. In October, word came from Canton that the first leaves, blossoms, and fresh fruits of a plant which has been "just over the horizon" from science for years have been collected.

The plant, the Lohon, was found in its native home in the wild mountains of northeastern Kwangsi Province, China, where it is grown by primitive tribes far from the beaten paths of travelers or traders.

The discovery was made by Dr. G. Weidman-Groff, leader of the National Geographic Society-Lingnan University Expedition, which has just returned to Canton after several exciting months spent in outlying parts of this southern Chinese province bordering on French Indo-China. Dr. Groff found that he was the first white man ever to be seen by the Lohon growers whom he visited.

Well-Known Chinese Household Remedy

The Lohon fruit, in dried form only, is an important household remedy among Chinese, and is sold in Chinese herb and medical shops throughout the world. But botanists have been unable to identify the fruit scientifically, or to learn anything about its appearance in the fresh state, or even of the nature of the plant on which it grows.

The late Dr. Frederick V. Coville, botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture, spent twenty years vainly trying to obtain herbarium specimens that would make it possible to classify the Lohon plant. As chairman of the Research Committee of the National Geographic Society, he was instrumental, shortly before his death last January, in arranging the expedition which finally obtained specimens now in the hands of scientists.

The Lohon plant, Dr. Groff reports, is a vine with leaves and tendrils somewhat like those of a grape, but more delicate. It is grown in small patches on steep mountain slopes under semi-tropical conditions, never much less than 2,000 feet above sea-level, and is trained on rough arbors of saplings, about six feet high. The fruits, of several varieties, vary from the size of an egg to that of a tennis ball. Some are roughly egg-shaped and others nearly round. When ripe, one variety is greenish yellow, another a beautiful dark red. The shell is brittle; inside are succulent flesh, fiber, and flat seeds, the latter somewhat like those of a watermelon, but larger.

Rude Tribesmen Are Skilled Gardeners

Dr. Groff was impressed by the fact that although the Lohon fruit is grown by shy, superstitious aboriginal tribes, in a region isolated from civilization, they are skilled gardeners. In addition to training the vines on arbors in such a way as to avoid too much shade for the fruits, they propagate the plants by a vegetative process, and most surprising of all, they fertilize the bearing plants by spreading pollen from flower to flower by hand.

The fruits are not eaten as such but are steeped in broth or tea. Dr. Groff tested the fruit, however, and found it exceedingly sweet and somewhat irritating to lips and tongue. Chinese use dried Lohon in combatting congestion of the lungs resulting from colds. They also believe that it contributes to virility. Its value as a medicine has not yet been determined by science.

Processing the Lohon fruits is an important industry in market towns just in-

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There is little Spanish color to be seen except green doors. Shining brass fixtures, square-paned windows with white frames, and unshuttered windows during the day are decidedly un-Spanish.

At the other end of the British-made road, the town of Ciudadela, while not as Spanish as Palma, or Majorca, is not as English as Mahon. Like Mahon, it occupies the side of a cliff overlooking a fine harbor. Many of its buildings are whitewashed and even the nearby rocks are frequently given white coats along with the houses, but here and there a daub of color—pink, blue, green, or yellow—and an occasional iron grill balcony lend a Spanish touch. The easygoing life of the Latin prevails in Ciudadela more than in Mahon.

Scene of Pirate Raids

Minorca's authentic history begins with the arrival of the Carthaginian Mago, brother of Hannibal, in 210 B.C. He founded Mahon. The island was the cause of frequent conflicts between European sovereigns and the scene of pirate raids for centuries. Under British rule, Minorca prospered from the early part of the eighteenth century until the Seven Years' War. The ownership of the little island also was involved in the American Revolution when the French and Spanish captured it while England was busy overseas. Sixteen years later, at the beginning of the long struggle with Napoleon, the British again captured Minorca. It remained British until 1802 when, under the Peace of Amiens, it passed to Spain.

Iviza, the southernmost of the Balearic group, is the setting for the recent novel "The Life and Death of a Spanish Town."

Note: Minorca is described in "Balearics, Island Sisters of the Mediterranean," *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1928;

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "The Mediterranean, Sea of Commerce and Destiny," week of October 11, 1937.

Bulletin No. 1, November 1, 1937.

Photograph from Roy W. Baker

A MAJOR MYSTERY ON A MINOR ISLAND

On the island of Minorca, prehistoric stone buildings baffle students by their strange shapes, flat at one end and tapering at the other. This one on the road from Ciudadela to Mahon is the largest, enclosing a windowless chamber about 35 feet square. Many of the stone structures are being allowed to fall to pieces, and some of the pottery and prehistoric implements which natives unearth from time to time are carelessly thrown aside or used for ornament.

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Seminoles, the "Runaway" Indians

"THE Indians are coming!", once war news in the United States, may become peace news in Mexico. The Seminoles are reported to be considering a mass migration from Oklahoma to one of the Mexican border States.

It isn't the warpath that may lead the Seminoles south, but the long restless trail of an uprooted people. The history of their homelessness begins about 1750, when a pioneer band seceded from the Creek nation of Georgia and sought greener pastures in Florida.

When the original pilgrims were joined by immigrants from Creek, Muskogee, and Hitchiti tribes, they began to be known by the Creek word for separatist or runaway, the Simanole. Later they were often accused of sheltering runaway slaves from cotton plantations.

Seminoles Never Surrendered to the United States

To subdue them required some of the fiercest fighting in all Uncle Sam's hostilities with Indians. Their runaway tendencies became a talent after the Second Seminole War, when United States troops were rounding them up to be shipped from Florida to a new home in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. A few escaped into the Everglades, where their descendants still live.

The Seminoles now in Florida have never surrendered to the United States. They are still separatist in tendency, living aloof on swamp land which the white man could not penetrate to oust them. They are perhaps unique in the United States, an example of Indian life persisting unspoiled in its natural surroundings. So rare is their mode of living that every effort will be made not to interfere with it as the Everglades region is converted into a National Park.

A census spotted 577 Seminoles lurking in Florida subtropical fastnesses. On their assigned reservation in Oklahoma there are about 2,000, although the tribal roll holds names of a thousand more. Descendants of negro slaves whom the Seminoles owned and freed share equally in the rights of the tribe.

The Seminoles hold title to some territory in Mexico, awarded to them in gratitude by the Mexican government. Finding their weapons growing rusty on the reservation in Oklahoma, Seminole braves undertook the job of quelling a troublesome Mexican tribe for the government, just to keep in practice. Their land, just over the Rio Grande in the neighborhood of Eagle Pass, is now held by a few of the tribe's freedmen.

Independent of White Man, Can Live on Nature

Most interesting is the Florida branch of the family, because they still exemplify the Indian's ability to live almost entirely on the natural products of the land. They occupy small islands of dry land in the Everglades, where a green sea of saw grass waves in water from one to ten feet deep, bordered with palmetto and pine scrub and dotted with cypress swamp.

These tentless Indians build airy houses without side walls, consisting of a peaked roof of palmetto thatch to shed the rain, and a floor of split palmetto logs three feet off the ground as a precaution against rising water. In heavy dugout canoes of never-rotting cypress logs, they pole their way through the saw grass wastes to catch fish and terrapin, or to shoot deer.

The wild cassava root, or *kunti*, they grind with wooden mortar and pestle

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side the mountain region, and in Kweilin, capital of Kwangsi, the National Geographic-Lingnan University Expedition reports. The fruits are first dried in the sun. Later more than 80 per cent of the moisture is driven off by drying the fruits over charcoal ovens. Traders consulted by expedition members estimated that more than 140,000 pounds of the dried fruit entered trade channels in 1936. So highly is the product prized that in shops in the coast cities of China a single dried fruit brings about 20 cents in Canton silver.

Because of a lack of other plant specimens and of botanical records in China, it will probably be impossible to determine the scientific niche into which the Lohon plant should fall until the specimens are shipped to the United States for examination by botanists in reach of the necessary data. Dr. Groff is of the opinion that the plant definitely does not belong to the Passifloraceae (the passion-flower family) as many botanists had suggested after examining the dried fruit.

Photograph by T. C. Lau

THE "ROCK GARDEN" MOUNTAINS OF KWANGSI

From this remote southern Chinese province came many of China's ideas about landscape art. Here, too, are both plants and people practically unknown to the outside world. In addition to photographs and data about aboriginal tribes the National Geographic Society-Lingnan University Expedition to Kwangsi recently obtained specimens of the Lohon, one of China's mystery plants.

In collecting the Lohon material, it was necessary for the expedition members to exercise the greatest patience, because of the fear and superstition of the aboriginal mountain people, Dr. Groff reports. Their success, he feels, was largely owing to the personal assistance extended to the party by Marshal Li Tsung-jen, military leader of Kwangsi.

Note: For descriptions of other plant-hunting expeditions into China, see "Peacetime Plant Hunting Around Peiping," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1937; "Konka Risumgongba, Holy Mountain of the Outlaws," July, 1931; "The Land of the Yellow Lama," April, 1925; and "A Hunter of Plants," July, 1919.

Bulletin No. 2, November 1, 1937.

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Pershing Statue Overlooks Versailles

HIGH on a wooded hilltop, overlooking the palace of Versailles, a new statue of General John J. Pershing on horseback faces the famous Paul Bartlett bronze of Lafayette. The two comprise the Franco-American monument, and the former Avenue de Picardie, leading to it, has been renamed "Avenue of the United States."

The new memorial had the rare distinction of being dedicated during the lifetime of General Pershing. The leader of the American forces in France during the World War was present during the exercises in October, and heard his wartime activities praised by Marshal Philippe Petain before a distinguished audience composed of many officials of the French and American governments, as well as a large delegation of visiting American Legionnaires.

Sawdust on Floors Trod by Kings

The Franco-American monument adds new lustre to one of the most glamorous and historic places in the world—that little patch of countryside west of Paris which includes the park and the great palace of Versailles.

The palace or chateau of Versailles, begun during the reign of Louis XIII, probably knew its greatest glory under Louis XIV. The presence of Louis XIV, the Sun King, is felt even before one enters the huge building decorated with his portraits and flaming gilded suns. In the cobbled courtyard, his statue looks down on droves of incoming sightseers.

Guides, sometimes two or three talking at once in the same room, fill with hubbub the palace's vast salons. Many of the rooms are partially empty, their carved and gilded furniture long ago removed and sold at auction, their paintings and art objects preserved in the Louvre. However, enough of the gilded panelings, decorated ceilings and glittering chandeliers remain to show the magnificence in which King Louis and his dazzling court lived.

Crowds of visitors shuffling through sawdust on some of the slippery parquet floors recall those curious occasions when any French citizen, decently dressed and wigged, was permitted to come and, peering through the barrier of the Swiss Guards, watch the King and Royal Family eat.

World War Peace Treaty Signed in Palace

Two curious customs took place in the King's bedroom. Here, each morning before rising, and each evening before retiring, His Majesty held special audiences. By accepting the duty of making the Sovereign's bed, the French dramatist Molière found a chance to ask the King's permission to stage his comedies at the court.

The royal bedroom was so chilly that Louis XV refused to sleep in it. After holding his audience there, and going through the ceremony of being almost literally "tucked in" by his courtiers, he would get up from the State bed and scuttle off to sleep in a smaller, cozier bedroom.

One of the most famous rooms in the palace is the long Hall of Mirrors, whose seventeen tall Venetian mirrors parallel the seventeen tall arched windows on the opposite wall. Now the mirrors are tarnished and dull. When new and bright, and lit by myriads of candles, they reflected brilliant scenes. They multiplied the ribbon garters, lace cuffs, and curled wigs of courtiers and the glittering gems of court beauties as they advanced and retreated in stately dances. Brocaded skirts flooded the floor before them at the approach of Louis XIV, and as "Le Grand

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into a meal tasting like arrowroot, and leaves of the sweet bay tree furnish tea. Razor-back hogs and chickens run freely about their clearing. A small garden of corn, squash, sweet potatoes, and sugar cane supplements their wild-growing foods. Banana trees supply fruit and cabbage palms yield salad hearts for variety.

Modern names perpetuate some Seminole descriptions of places, such as Okefinokee Swamp, meaning "shaking water"; Withlacoochee River, "little big water"; Oklawaha River, "muddy"; the town of Hialeah, "beautiful prairie"; Tallahassee, Florida's capital, "old town"; the town of Palatka on the St. Johns River, "a ferrying place"; and Lake Weohyahapka, the "place of walking on water."

Note: *The National Geographic Magazine* is publishing the first of a series of illustrated articles on the Indians of the United States and Canada in the November, 1937, issue. "America's First Settlers, the Indians" by Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, vividly describes Indians of the northeastern woodlands. Twenty-four full color paintings by W. Langdon Kihn depict Indian costumes, games, ceremonials, hunting, farming, and fishing.

See also: Pictorial Geography Packet No. 1: "The Indian in America—The Negro in Africa," published by the National Geographic Society.

Bulletin No. 3, November 1, 1937.

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RED MAN'S CATCH BECOMES WHITE MAN'S SATCHEL

The alligator, considered a menace to livestock in the southern Florida haunts of unvanquished Seminoles, is converted into a leading "industry" by the Indians. They hunt the 'gator at night, dazzling it into motionless bewilderment and shooting it. At a single trading post Indians have turned in 25,000 alligators in a year. The candy stripes and geometrical decorations on Seminole dress are strips of calico sewed on by hand or with hand-operated sewing machines. Boys and some of the men wear skirts, which are not as long as those of the women.

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Tiny Denmark a Big-Bridge Builder

TWO of Europe's largest bridges have been built by one of its smallest countries —Denmark.

Two years ago the Danes boldly hurdled the Little Belt—a channel between the island of Funen and the peninsula of Jutland. Last month a new two-mile span was completed between the islands of Zealand and Falster, across the Storstrom, or Great Current, of the Baltic. Thus the peaceful land of the Sea Kings makes history today by going to sea on bridges instead of battleships.

Bridges Help Tie Island Cluster into Nation

Both bridges speed connections between Denmark's capital, Copenhagen, and other European capitals. The former was a convenient step in the direction of London. The latter is a southward short cut, paring an hour from the train time between Copenhagen and Berlin. Previous to completion of the sea-spanning structures, loaded trains were carried across the water gaps on ferries. Now train travelers can go by rail from Europe's mainland by either route to Copenhagen, with only a single ferry ride on each.

The newest steel link, between Zealand and Falster, is really a bridge and a half. The main Storstrom span reaches from Falster to the tiny island of Masned just south of Zealand, and from there is extended over open water again to Zealand itself. In addition to the railroad track, it carries a lane for vehicular traffic, which means bicycles (illustration, inside cover) as well as automobiles.

The "great Dane" bridges conquer the sea today as surely as the Vikings did ten centuries ago. But they show no slackening of the navigation skill which made Denmark so powerful in the history of northern Europe. They simply free train service from the hazard of the heavy fog which haunts the Danish channels of the Baltic, and from winter ice. Little Belt and Great Belt channels have frozen over so completely that, in the 17th century, a Swedish army marched across them and captured the capital of Denmark.

Bridges are especially important to Denmark because the country consists of one peninsula anchored to Europe's mainland and, for the rest, a cluster of islands—a dozen large ones and 500 smaller ones. The capital itself is on an island, Zealand, the largest of that flotilla of isles moored between North Sea and Baltic.

Almost a Fourth of the Country's Population in Capital

Contacts within the country are either made or broken by water, to the great stimulus of ferrying, shipping, and bridge building. Communications with Germany on the European mainland to the south, with Sweden on the east, Norway on the north, and with best-customer Britain on the west depend on ships and bridges. The one exception is the border about 36 miles long where Denmark's peninsula joins Germany, the only Danish line crossing land.

By the maritime skill which they developed for inter-island travel, the Danes made England bow to Svend Forkbeard and King Canute, and once extended their rule to all three Scandinavian kingdoms. The construction industry which makes Denmark one of the half-dozen leading ship-builders of the world simply continues an activity well under way long before King Harald Bluetooth accepted Christianity for his country.

The world's first Diesel motor ship, which discarded both sail and steam, was a Danish contribution to the Vikings of today.

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Monarque" strutted down the long hall, his red heels clicked and the gold fleur-de-lys shone on his ermine-lined blue robe. In silver tubs around the walls stood flowering orange trees.

On June 28, 1919, these same mirrors reflected a more sober scene: the signing of the Treaty of Versailles by representatives of the Allies and Germany.

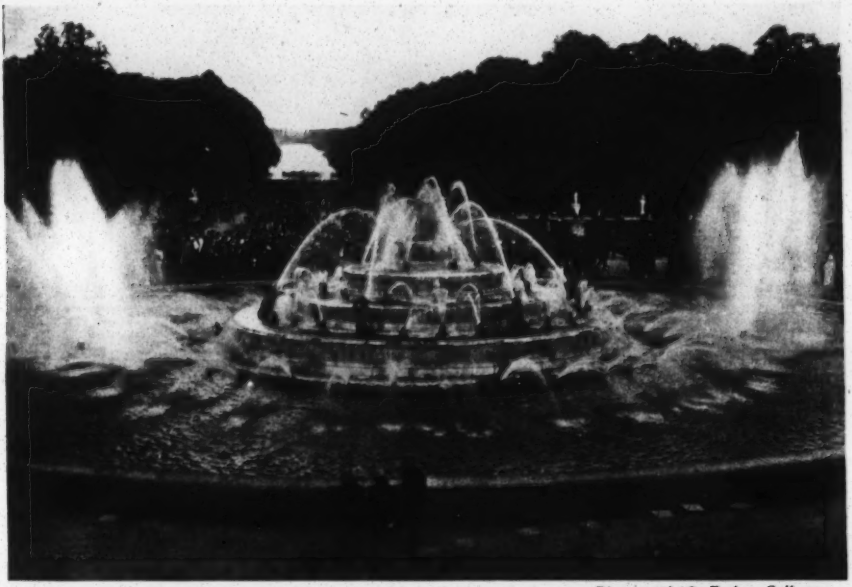
The windows of the Hall of Mirrors look out on beautiful formal gardens with geometrical flowerbeds, numerous marble and bronze statues, spurting fountains (illustration, below), and placid, carp-filled pools. Louis XIV took a lasting interest in these gardens, and in his old age used to be wheeled about them together with their designer and his friend, André LeNôtre.

A long greensward, bordered with trees and statues, leads to the Grand Canal. The main body of this artificially built sheet of water is nearly a mile long. Louis XIV had it constructed to please his wife Marie Thérèse, who had enjoyed Venice. Here the French court used to cruise to violin music under the stars in gondolas propelled by gondoliers brought from Venice. One arm of the Grand Canal leads to the Grand Trianon which the King later rebuilt for Madame de Maintenon.

The palace grounds today find favor as a picnic place with Parisian working people. On Sundays the Grand Canal swarms with rowboats, and the surrounding lawns and woods are dotted with couples lying on the grass and reading newspapers. Restoration of the Grand Canal formed an important part of the repairs made recently at Versailles by John D. Rockefeller, Junior. In his honor the French Government gave a reception there on June 30, 1936.

Note: For natural-color pictures of Versailles see "The Palace of Versailles, Its Park and the Trianons," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1925. Additional photographs and information are contained in "Armistice Day and the American Battle Fields," November, 1929; "World Viewed from the Air" (rotogravure insert), May, 1922; "Our Friends, The French," November, 1918; and "From the Trenches to Versailles," November-December, 1917.

Bulletin No. 4, November 1, 1937.



Photograph © Ewing Galloway

VERSAILLES, WHERE VISITORS AND FOUNTAINS PLAY

Occupied in turn by royalty, revolutionists, peace parleys, and picnic parties, Versailles serves now as a harbor for traditions and holiday crowds. Holidays are especially festive when the fountains play, for they were designed to dazzle even the brilliant court of Louis XIV.

Their skill at skimming the waves made the Danes great fishermen, and some of their catch still travels by modern bridges and ferries to share in foreign trade. Most of Denmark, however, is now home from the sea, and over half the population is down on the farm. Modern factory methods are applied to their farming, with the result that the land is 80 to 90 per cent productive. Areas not suitable for agriculture, with the help of numerous herds of cattle, raise bumper crops of bacon and butter, which become Denmark's chief exports.

See also "Flying Around the North Atlantic," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1934; "Royal Copenhagen, Capital of a Farming Kingdom," February, 1932; and "Denmark and the Danes," August, 1922.

Bulletin No. 5, November 1, 1937.

Photograph by Donald McLeish

EXPORT EGGS ARE PROVIDED WITH SMOOTHER RIDING

One of the three leading exports of Denmark is the egg, either fresh or preserved. In value, exports of eggs are exceeded only by bacon and butter. The best customers of the Danish egg market are the United Kingdom and Germany, and new bridges have within the past two years speeded traffic toward both of them. A rapid system of collecting fresh eggs from all parts of Denmark makes the great volume of exports possible—89 million dozen in 1935. Eggs are dated, sorted according to weight and quality, and securely crated for shipment. Here the eggs are being candled for quality, in a setting which has the lighting of an old master's painting.